

Let's Talk Dusty!

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A Scream, not a Whisper

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=850>

A Scream, not a Whisper

by **humboldt**

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Posted: **Thu Apr 22, 2010 9:01 pm**

I was talking to a friend about this the other day and decided that I wanted to speak about it here to see what reaction there is. So here goes. Remember this is just how I see things and I've been with Dusty since I first heard 'IOWTBWY' in 1963!

Dusty really needed a boot up the backside sometimes when it came to her choice of material. For example 'Where Am I Going' was a complete muddle of styles with some songs being far too old for her. 'Living Without Your Love' is so bad that if it was anyone else singing it would have been binned years ago. I'm too much of a gentleman to say what I feel about the Peter Stringfellow tracks on a public forum with ladies present. The non PSB songs on 'Reputation' are poor so the album just does not flow properly. Dusty still had that wonderfully distinctive voice right up to the end but really disappointed me with most of 'A Very Fine Love'. All far too MOR & so ordinary. I don't know if that was her own fault, Tom Shapiro's or Vicki's.

Now to get to my point. I don't know if you have heard Shirley Bassey's new album called 'The Performance'? I'm not a Shirley fan and didn't have any of her albums but a friend kept on playing the CD in the car and I fell in love with it so got it as a birthday gift from him. It contains 11 new original songs all by current very good writers like Gary Barlow, KT Tunstall, PSB & Rufus Wainwright. David Arnold produced it (and also wrote a couple of tracks) and the end result was magnificent. How I wish that Dusty had been able to record one more album of the quality of 'The Performance' with songs worthy of her talent so that she could have left us with a scream rather than a whisper. At least the final new track she did leave us with was 'Where Is A Woman To Go' which was truly amazing.

Re: A Scream, not a Whisper

by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Fri Apr 23, 2010 12:42 am**

okay, I'll have to check out *The Performance* based on that recommendation- I don't mind Bassey, although I'm not really a big fan (I own one album, a greatest hits).

I don't own *Where Am I Going?*, but I've heard all but two of the songs on the album, and I completely agree- it's overwhelmed by songs you wouldn't expect from a pop singer in her 20's. *Living Without Your Love* is probably the worst studio album of Dusty's entire career, but overall I'd grade it as mediocre, with only a few worthy cuts (the title track, "Closet Man", "Be Somebody"...even "I'm Coming Home Again", loved as it is by fans, drags for me).

I've cooled on *Reputation* since I first bought it- I wouldn't say the non-PSB tracks are poor, just unremarkable. The best of the lot being the title track and "Send it to Me"- these tracks are no worse than the PSB-produced "I Want to Stay Here". "Arrested By You" & "Time Waits For No One" are probably the bottom of the barrel for me on that album.

I've been on the fence about *A Very Fine Love*- because it's so dissimilar from most of the albums in her canon, I hate comparing it. But I pretty much see the bottom line- it's a more than a bit on the dull side. The production is waaaaaay too slick and polished for my taste. Still, I do love "Where is a Woman to Go", "Go Easy on Me", "You Are the Storm" and "Roll Away". But the undistinguished songs are more the rule than the exception.


Re: A Scream, not a Whisper


by **Cardiff Bluesgirl**

Posted: **Fri Apr 23, 2010 8:46 am**

well I have been going on and on about Dame Shirl and her cd,so I am glad you are now finding it. she is one of my big favs and this album was my favourite purchase last year. it takes a little bit of getting used to but once you do you cant stop playing it. as for Dusty well we all know some of her albums were unremarkable but there are always a few songs in the playlist that make the whole album worthwhile.


I think "a very fine love" although different is a Very fine album. it holds a special place in my heart especially as it was her last work. even though her voice was not the voice of her early years I loved it. especially


"go easy on me" 

"roll away" 

"you are the storm" 

"where is a woman to go" 

hey bartender..... who cant love that song with all her wonderful inflections 
makes me sad to think she was only just able to complete this as she was then heading towards the final part of that horrible illness.

for that alone I applaud her and love the album to bits. 

Re: A Scream, not a Whisper

by **trek007**

Posted: **Sat Apr 24, 2010 11:15 am**

I love Performance by Dame Shirley and play it loads.

I agree that some Dusty album have weak tracks..especially some on Living Without Your Love.

I do however love the title track on Where Am I Going and now Sweet Charity is coming to the West End I hope Dusty's version of this song gets some air play on the radio. Overall I do like WAIG as an album because I've always liked her rendering of standards some of which this album contains.

I also agree that the non PSB tracks on Reputation are not as strong as the ones they did.

I suppose its all an individual thing and she liked all these recordings. I remember reading that I'll Try Anything which was played on SOTS this morning was messed with by Dusty and the producers felt it was better before she did this!!!

Re: A Scream, not a Whisper

by **humboldt**

Posted: **Sun May 02, 2010 9:58 am**

Come on, 100 views but only three people have posted their thoughts. It's not about whether you like Shirley or not, I'm just using her latest album concept as a benchmark that Dusty was well able of attaining.